120 R

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ORIGIN PM-09
INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-10 OIC-02 AF-10
CIAE-00 EA-10 DODE-00 IO-15 NEA-06 NSCE-00 ARA-16
NSAE-00 PA-01 VA-01 HHS-04 SAL-01 SIG-03 OES-09
ACDA-12 ICAE-00 SP-02 SPRS-02 /135 R
DRAFTED BY PM/TMP:BLMURRAY/OSD/R&E:TDASHIELL
APPROVED BY PM:RDEAN
ACDA/MA:JLEONARD
EUR/NE:KSMITH
EUR/RPM:WMENOLD
EUR/SOV:SVERSHBOW
IO:PWILCOX
OSD/ISA:MMACDONALD
JCS/J-5:JHOGAN

----------224136 130126Z /70

O P 122312Z MAR 82 ZEX
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
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ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PARM, UNGA, UK, UR
SUBJECT: AGENT ORANGE AND YELLOW RAIN
REFS: A) LONDON 5300; B) STATE 61183
1. POINTS CONTAINED PARA 2 BELOW ARE PROVIDED FOR YOUR USE IN PREPARING RESPONSE TO REUTOV LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF "NEW SCIENTIST" REPORTED IN REF A; POINTS SUPPLEMENT THOSE CONTAINED REF B.
2. POINTS ON REUTOV LETTER TO "NEW SCIENTIST":
-- THE U.S. CHEMICAL WEAPONS PROGRAM FOR FY 1983 IS $705 MILLION REPEAT $705 MILLION; LESS THAN 15 REPEAT 15 PERCENT OF $104 MILLION REPEAT $104 MILLION IS ASSOCIATED

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WITH BINARY MUNITIONS. THE REMAINDER IS FOR DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT R&D, AND PROCUREMENT AND DEMILITARIZATION OF OBSOLETE STOCKS. THE TOTAL PROGRAM INCREASE FROM FY 1982 TO FY 1983 IS $173 MILLION REPEAT $173 MILLION, AND IS DIRECTED TO THE OBJECTIVE OF DETERRENCE OF CHEMICAL WARFARE.

-- THE BINARY WEAPONS IN THE U.S. PROGRAM WILL PRODUCE THE SAME NERVE GASES PRESENTLY IN THE U.S. INVENTORY. THEY ARE NOT MORE TOXIC THAN CURRENT STOCKPILES. NERVE GAS IS CONSIDERABLY MORE TOXIC THAN WORLD WAR I CHEMICAL AGENTS; HOWEVER, THESE FACTS ARE WELL RECOGNIZED BY THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY.

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-- HERBICIDES OR DEFOLIANTS ARE NOT CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS.

-- THE SOIL IN VIETNAM IS NOT INFERTILE, AND RECOVERY OF DEFOLIATED AREAS HAS PROGRESSED VERY WELL.

-- THE OBJECTIVE OF THE U.S. PROGRAM IS TO DETER THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS BY MAINTAINING AN ADEQUATE CHEMICAL WEAPONS DETERRENT CAPABILITY.

-- THE PRESENT U.S. STOCKPILE POSES NO DANGER OR THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH. MOREOVER, BINARY MUNITIONS FURTHER ENHANCE SAFETY, SINCE ONLY THE NON-LETHAL PRECURSERS ARE STORED. NERVE GAS IS NOT PRODUCED UNTIL THE NON-LETHAL PRECURSORS MIX INSIDE THE MUNITION AFTER IT IS IN FLIGHT TO ITS TARGET.

3. AS WITH REF B, INFO ADDRESSEES MAY DRAW ON POINTS ABOVE, AS APPROPRIATE.

4. KABUL MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. HAIG

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